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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **New director brings experience to post**

Juneau, Alaska – A 26-year veteran of rural affairs has been named the director of the state's Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). Scott Ruby, former deputy director of DCRA, was appointed to head the division on Feb. 1 by Susan Bell, commissioner of the state Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

Ruby has worked for Community and Regional Affairs since 1985. In that time, he has held a variety of positions that have brought him significant experience and interaction with each of the division's sections and programs that work together to promote strong communities and healthy regional economies. He has traveled extensively throughout rural Alaska and has visited and worked with more than 200 different communities from every region of the state.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Scott's caliber to fill this challenging position," Bell said. "His considerable experience with rural issues will be an asset to the department and the people of Alaska."

A graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Ruby was deputy director of DCRA for four years. Prior to that, he was responsible for the administration of RUBA – the Rural Utility Business Advisor program – and the Local Government Assistance sections. From 1989 through 2001, he worked in DCRA's Fairbanks and Anchorage regional offices as a Local Government Specialist. Ruby began work for DCRA as a staffer within the Municipal Lands Trustee Program.

"It is an honor to be chosen for this position," Ruby said. "I look forward to working with the dedicated staff at DCRA in service to rural communities."

From offices in Kotzebue, Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, DCRA administers more than \$1 billion in community grants, \$90 million in programs providing funding directly to communities, several different programs that provide on-site assistance and regional training, and programs that manage lands in unincorporated Native communities. The division also provides planning assistance to communities throughout Alaska.